

Student Athletics

The interscholastic athletic program of this district shall be considered as an extra-curricular part of the total school program. It is neither required nor part of the basic instructional program.

The purposes of athletic programs in the secondary schools shall be:

1. To provide a wide basis of participation in both team and individual sports in interscholastic competition.
2. To develop a strong program of competitive sports:
 - a. By encouraging and developing talented athletes in all sports and providing sufficient opportunity, for students to develop individual ability.
 - b. By encouraging the development of team spirit among all members of the team and their coaches.
 - c. By developing good attitudes of pride, sportsmanship, and ethical behavior in students, participants and spectators.
 - d. By developing and maintaining a good relationship between athletic teams and the student body, faculty, administration and community.
 - e. By teaching fundamentals and techniques of each sport in progressive sequence as appropriate for students at higher grade levels.
 - f. By providing student athletes with an awareness of potential opportunities as afforded them through competitive athletics.

In keeping with the above goals, the Board shall seek to fund girls' sports on an equal opportunity basis with boys sports and shall permit and encourage co-educational teams when the particular sport is determined suitable as a co-educational activity.

The Board of Education shall encourage students, faculty and the community to recognize the value of athletics in relation to the total school program.

Adopted: February 19, 1985

Revised: May 29, 1990

Revised: May 2000

CROSS REF.: JJJ, Extracurricular Activity Eligibility

Inter-Scholastic Athletics

Participants in Middle School Sports

1. The administration and coaches at the middle school level feel it is possible for students in this age group to overextend themselves when it comes to extra-curricular activities or commitments beyond the regular school day. However, it is their belief that parents can best judge how these extra activities are affecting their children's regular school work or physical well-being.
2. Parents of middle school students may sign a waiver for the purpose of notifying the school that their child is involved in an organized program in addition to the regular school sport during the same season. It should be noted that absences from regularly scheduled school practices or games due to involvement in additional recreational or little league activities will be considered unexcused. Excessive absences could affect the student's status on the school team.
3. A student is eligible to compete as a 7th grader if his or her 14th birthday falls on or after August 20 of the current school year.
4. A student is eligible to compete as an 8th grader if his or her 15th birthday falls on or after August 20 of the current school year.

Participants in High School and Middle School Sports

1. No athlete will be allowed to practice or participate in any contest until evidence of a recent physical examination, parental consent and evidence of insurance (or waiver) are on file in the office of the athletic administrator.
2. An athlete who is absent and excused from school all day may not practice or participate in any athletic contest for that day. This applies to absences for a portion of the day unless specifically excepted by the athletic administrator.
3. An athlete truant all day or a portion of a day will not be allowed to practice or compete on that day. Decisions on future participation will be made by the principal. Saturday activities are extensions of Friday activities in regard to truancies.
4. Absences or tardies resulting from "sleeping in" after a prior night contest will not be accepted.
5. While on school suspension, athletes may not participate in practices or contests.

6. Although athletes are expected to devote much time and energy to practices and contests, performance in their studies must be maintained at an acceptable level.
7. An athlete who drops out of a sport with no legitimate reason (as determined by his or her coach) may not participate in another sport during that season.

EXCEPTION: This regulation may be waived by written agreement between the coaches involved for the good of the athlete.

8. Coaches, with the approval of the athletic administrator, may determine the proper dress of their teams on game days.
9. Each athlete is responsible for all athletic equipment issued to him or her. Payment for equipment not returned will be the responsibility of the athlete and/or the athlete's parents or guardians. Athletes will be allowed one week from the end of the season to return all equipment or to pay for the missing equipment. Students will not be allowed to practice or participate in other activities until all equipment is returned or paid for.
10. In order to assure that the athlete is maintaining his or her studies, a weekly eligibility list will be circulated among the students' teachers. If the athlete is failing in more than one class for the week, the athletic coordinator will disqualify the student from participation in the following week's contests. (Weekly eligibility grades are cumulative grades from the beginning of the semester to that week.) No make-up or extra credit work will be allowed for purposes of becoming eligible during that week. However, if a student is legitimately absent, he or she may make up the work as per the teacher's policy and become eligible with written documentation from that teacher.

Training Regulations

These regulations are designed to assist the athlete to attain the best possible physical and mental condition. They are basic, and founded upon sound research. Adherence to these regulations will help prevent injuries to athletes, as well as to assure peak performances as team members. The one basic training regulation that is applicable to all district schools is outlined below.

The use of tobacco, including chewing tobacco, possession and/or use of alcohol, drugs or paraphernalia in any form is strictly prohibited. Penalties for violations will be enforced when athletes are apprehended for breaking this rule.

Students accused of breaking training rules will have the opportunity to respond to the accusation.

Any penalties enforced on athletes will be in addition to other penalties each school has set for its student body.

Athletic Penalties

For smoking, use of chewing tobacco or possession of drug paraphernalia:

First offense - 3 to 10 day suspension to include at least one contest, no competition—must practice and attend team meetings.

Second offense - 10 to 30 day suspension to include at least one contest, no competition—must practice and attend team meetings.

Third offense - Suspension from all athletics for the remainder of the school year.

For use or possession of alcohol and/or drugs:

First offense - 10 to 30 day suspension to include at least one contest, no competition—must practice and attend team meetings.

Second offense - 30 to 90 day suspension to include at least one contest, no competition—must practice and attend team meetings.

Third offense - Suspension from all athletics for the remainder of the school year.

All offenses will carry a penalty of missing at least one contest. All contests scheduled during the period of suspension must be missed. If no contests are scheduled during the suspension, the athlete will miss the next scheduled contest.

Suspensions will carry over from season to season, but not from school year to school year. The CHSAA opening practice date and the final contest for each sport will determine the beginning and ending of each sports season.

Days are defined as school days computed from the point of infraction.

The Athletic Council may review each case and make rulings within the minimum/maximum guidelines.

Students refusing to attend practice and/or team functions will be suspended from that team for the remainder of that season, and may not enter another sport during that season.

Other Provisions

1. Before each sports season head coaches will distribute, in writing, and also discuss the following with each athlete:
 - a. Lettering procedures
 - b. Additional training regulations
 - c. Specific rules/regulations for that sport
 - d. Schedule of games and contests
2. Each athlete who participates in a sport, meets CHSAA eligibility requirements, is in good standing with the coach and the school, and successfully completes the season is eligible for a certificate of participation in that sport. In addition, the attainment of participation requirements in interscholastic contests as determined by the coach will make the athlete eligible for a letter or numeral award for that level of competition.

School Athletic Council

In order to assure that the rights of the student/athlete are protected, to insure that due process procedures are afforded for matters of appeal and to provide a procedure for considering serious athletic disciplinary infractions, the senior high school will establish a School Athletic Council which will consist of the principal, the athletic director and two coaches from other sports.

It shall be the duties of the Council to:

1. Hold hearings and assess penalties for serious athletic infractions.
2. Act as an appeals board for athletes who feel that discipline for minor infractions has been too excessive or severe.

The Athletic Council may be convened by the principal as an independent action or as a result of a request for review of appeal by a student/athlete. In the latter case the appeal hearing must take place within five days of receipt of a written request.

Athletic Associations and Leagues

Membership of a district school in an interscholastic athletic association or league shall be subject to the approval of the Board. The Board shall review the constitution and by-laws of such organization and its regulations for member teams before granting approval.

Customarily the principals of member schools or their designees are voting members of athletic organizations. It should be understood that such administrators serve as representatives of the district. Therefore, before voting on a change of by-laws or regulations that will in any way affect the schools or athletic teams of this district, this district's representatives to athletic organizations shall advise the Board of the proposed change and seek and follow its directions for voting.

Approved: January 21, 1992

Revised: May 2000

Inter-Scholastic Athletics (Fees)

All participants in inter-scholastic athletics at the middle school and senior high level will be assessed an athletic participation fee. This fee will help defray the escalating costs of equipment and programs. Funds from participants will be returned to athletes in the form of payments to contest officials, transportation to and from events, and the repair and/or replacement of materials and supplies.

The following guidelines are established for athletic fees in the district:

Middle Schools

1. Participants in a competitive sport will be assessed a \$10.00 fee per sport with a \$20.00 maximum fee per year.
2. There will be a maximum fee of \$30.00 per family enrolled at the middle school level per year.
3. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches are exempt from fees for the entire school year.
4. Money will not be refunded to athletes who quit the team, or are removed due to academic ineligibility or infraction of the athletic code.
5. All participation fees must be paid in full prior to the athlete being allowed to participate.
6. Transfers into a district middle school or students who choose to participate after the first competitive contest will be required to pay the fee.
7. In special hardship cases, the athletic director may exempt individuals on a case-by-case basis.
8. All athletic fees must be paid to the bookkeeper at the middle school of attendance. Neither coaches nor managers may accept any athletic fees from athletes or parents.

Senior High School

1. Participants in a competitive sport will be assessed a \$15.00 fee per sport with a \$25.00 maximum fee per year.
2. There will be a maximum fee of \$50.00 per family per year at the senior high level.
3. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunches are exempt from the fee for the entire school year.
4. Athletes cut within 10 days of the start of the season will have their fees refunded.
5. Fees will not be refunded to athletes who quit the team, or who are removed due to academic ineligibility or infraction of the athletic code.
6. All participation fees must be paid in full prior to the athlete being allowed to participate.
7. Cheerleading is a co-curricular activity and is not subject to an athletic fee.
8. Transfers to the high school or students who choose to participate after the first competitive contest will be assessed the fee.
9. In special hardship cases, the athletic director may exempt individuals on a case-by-case basis.
10. Payment of fees does not guarantee that a student will play. Coaches will use their best Judgment to provide the best competitive teams in all sports.
11. All athletic fees must be paid to the bookkeeper at the high school. Coaches or managers shall not accept any athletic fees from athletes or parents.
12. Bingo and other fund-raisers may not be used to pay for any or all of any student's athletic fees.

Approved: May 29, 1990

Revised: May 2000